

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

S E C R E T NICOSIA 2756

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MARR PFOR GR CY TU
SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF NEW GREEK MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS

REF: ANKARA 6771 (DTG 030823Z SEP 76)

1. EMBASSY NICOSIA HAS NO HARD INFORMATION INDICATING CLOSER
DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN GREECE AND CYPRUS OR ANY GREEK
PROMISE TO PROVIDE WEAPONS AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO GREEK

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CYPRUS. WE HAVE NOTED TWO DEVELOPMENTS, HOWEVER, WHICH MIGHT

LEAD TO THESE CONCLUSIONS.

2. COMMANDER OF (GREEK CYPRIOT) NATIONAL GUARD LTG KOMNINOS, WE ARE INFORMED, DEPARTED CYPRUS SEPTEMBER 6 OR 7 FOR CONSULTATIONS IN ATHENS. BEFORE DEPARTURE HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT MAKARIOS. THIS IS HIS SECOND TRIP TO ATHENS IN LESS THAN A MONTH. HE IS ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THERE SOMETIME AFTER AUGUST 13, I.E., BETWEEN MAKARIOS' TWO STOPS IN ATHENS ENROUTE TO AND FROM COLOMBO NAM CONFERENCE. THIS APPEARS TO US AS UNUSUALLY FREQUENT TRAVEL BY KOMNINOS.

3. PRO-LYSSARIDES TA NEA, A GENERALLY UNRELIABLE SOURCE, CARRIED STORY SEPTEMBER 2 THAT GOC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH MILITIA UNITS TO REINFORCE NATIONAL GUARD UNITS AND PERFORM SECURITY FUNCTIONS. STORY INDICATED NATIONAL GUARD HEADQUARTERS ALREADY INFORMED OF DECISION AND GREEK CYPRIOT RESERVISTS OF 1964-68 PERIOD WOULD BE ASKED TO SERVE IN PROPOSED UNITS. DATT NICOSIA BELIEVES VIABLE MILITIA/RESERVE ORGANIZATION WOULD REQUIRE ARMS AND EQUIPMENT NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN GREEK CYPRIOT INVENTORIES.

4. WE NOTE THAT TURK MFA OFFICIAL GUVENDIREN MENTIONED A POSSIBLE GREEK DIVISION FOR CYPRUS. WE RECALL THAT TURK CYPRIOT PRESS EXPRESSED CONCERN AUGUST 24 ABOUT A REPORTED PROPOSAL TO THIS EFFECT BY GREEK POLITICIAN PROFESSOR MANGAKIS. THE MANGAKIS PROPOSAL DID NOT RECEIVE ANY SUPPORT IN GREEK CYPRUS AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION HERE THAT IT GOT VERY FAR IN GREECE ITSELF.

5. IN SUM, CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE IN CYPRUS COULD LEAD TO CONCLUSION GOC MAY BE CONSIDERING INCREASING MILITARY AID TO CYPRUS; BUT ASIDE FROM INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON KARAMANLIS-MAKARIOS MEETING, WE HAVE SEEN NO SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF SUCH AN INCREASE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH SITUATION CLOSELY AND REPORT AS APPROPRIATE.

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